

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### Letter to the editor:



People have been inquiring about what is happening with the purchase of commuter rail cars, and the news is positive.

Governor M. Jodi Rell has announced what Fairfield County legislators and commuters have demanded for years: ordering new rail cars to replace antiquated, malfunctioning, 30-year-old equipment on the Metro-North commuter rail line.

The governor recently stated that 210 new cars will be built, with an option for another 170. The \$522 million contract also includes options to purchase spare parts, tools and test equipment to operate and maintain the cars.

Final state approval is scheduled for August 11 when the state Bond Commission, which the governor chairs, approves state borrowing to pay our share of the purchase price. Connecticut will pay 65 percent of the cost and New York 35 percent, based on ridership and track miles.

The approval process began in earnest last year when the legislature passed a bipartisan \$1.3-billion transportation plan. Fairfield County legislators took steps as early as 2000 pushing the legislature to approve some new rail cars. This latest action will be the largest investment in transportation in state history.

These new cars will go a long way toward addressing some of the issues plaguing commuters including poorly functioning air conditioning, doors and restrooms, as well as frequent breakdowns and equipment out of service for lengthy repairs.

It should be noted the new cars will be manufactured in the United States, creating good jobs in the process.

I am sure Fairfield County legislators and the governor will closely monitor the work to assure that the new cars are delivered as expeditiously as possible.

Cathy C. Tymniak  
State Representative  
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